

From: William R. Michelman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 12:34pm
Subject: microsoft settlement

Dear DOJ:

I am writing to express my support for the pending Microsoft settlement. In my opinion, the lawsuit against Microsoft was ill conceived and, without coincidence, it coincides with the start of the downturn in our economy. Without Microsoft we would all be in a computer age Tower of Babel, because Microsoft brought a stable format to the computer industry that allowed it to develop to the point it is at today, and to where it will be tomorrow. I am still waiting for the testimony of a single consumer who can show he or she had to pay a higher price for a computer or for software as a result of anything that Microsoft did. If it was not for politically connected whiners like Sun Microsystems and other companies trying to take market share from Microsoft, there would not have been such a misplaced use of the antitrust statute. I support this settlement, not because I think that Microsoft actually harmed consumers, but because anything that gets the case over with without doing unnecessary harm to Microsoft is a good idea. In my opinion, the states that are refusing to go along with the settlement are just like gold diggers. They need money and they see the lawsuit as a means to that end.

WR Michelman
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